

(57) Abstract

A method for handling dynamic state information used for handling data packets, which arrive at a network element node of a network element cluster, said network element cluster having at least two nodes and each node handling separate sets of data packets. In a node there is maintained 206 a first, node-specific data structure comprising entries representing state information needed for handling sets of data packets handled in said node. In said node there is also maintained 208 a second, common data structure comprising at least entries representing state information needed for handling sets of data packets handled in one other node of said network element cluster. The contents of said common data structure effectively differs from the contents of said node-specific data structure. Data packets are distributed 202, 204 to nodes of the cluster by means of distribution identifiers allocated 200 to nodes. Advantageously, information related to the distribution identifiers is included 212 in the entries of the data structures in order to identify to which node a set of data packets represented by a given entry belongs to at a given moment.

Fig. 2

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